

As a consumer, I am opposed to HR 4026 and NAB's petition 04-160, which would unduly limit the content which may be transmitted via satellite radio. The FCC has already established a precedent for national satellite providers to transmit local information, witnessed by the approval for DirectTV's to deliver local television channels to their subscribers.

While the specific objection raised by the NAB has to do with local traffic and weather information, the ramifications of placing restrictions such as this on satellite broadcasting are much more far-reaching. Remember, satellite radio is a pay service, and as such has traditionally enjoyed more freedom than their over-the-air brethren. Censoring local traffic and weather from this medium could establish a dangerous precedent which could ultimately lead to tighter overall content control and broader censorship.

Finally, the NAB and HR 4026 both seem to be missing the bigger point. By providing local traffic and weather information, satellite radio is proving an additional advertising opportunities. If listeners migrate to satellite from over-the-air, that's just one more revenue stream that advertisers can capitalize upon. And after all, isn't that what America's all about?

NAB petition 04-160 and HR 4026 would place unfair and unnecessary restrictions on satellite radio, would establish a dangerous precedent for future censorship of pay broadcast services, and runs contrary to the overall notions of fair play, supply and demand, and rewarding innovation. I strongly and respectfully urge that the FCC reject NAB petition 04-160 and that HR 4026 be defeated.